

Superintendent's Report
Parks and Seattle Center Committee
February 16, 2012

Magnuson Park Strategic Plan Meeting. On Saturday from 8:30 – 1 p.m., Parks held a public meeting to begin work on updating the Strategic Development Plan for Warren G. Magnuson Park, which will guide future capital investment and development for this beautiful regional park.

Parks Youth Employment and Community Service Unit. This group will have a table at the upcoming “Youth Education, Career and Resource Fair” at Rainier Community Center on February 22. HSD is the lead for coordinating the event including the marketing.

Yesler Child Care and Teen Programs. Yesler is introducing a new program, Full Circle Farms, into our center. This program allows us to order a variety of fresh, organic produce that is delivered weekly. The plan is to put this toward cooking projects on Wednesdays.

Washington Park Playfield. The public works contract for this synthetic turf project is currently advertised. There is a non-mandatory pre-bid meeting scheduled for February 9 at 1:30. The project bids on February 22.

Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center. This project is nearing substantial completion, which is due March 12, 2012. There have been substantial construction challenges on this project, including hazardous material removal, plumbing replacement to resolve contamination issues, and a variety of structural and code compliance issues. The project provides seismic upgrades to the theater dome and various walls in the building. New fire sprinkler and fire alarm systems have been added; and renovations to the offices include flooring, lights, electrical upgrades, and other finishes.

Discovery Park Capehart Site Restoration. This restoration project is scheduled to be complete by the end of February 2012. This 25-acre old military housing site, with approximately 50 single family homes, was cleared of the structures prior to Parks taking over the property, but the hard surfaces such as concrete and asphalt were left behind for future removal. A total of 4,500 cubic yards of concrete and asphalt were removed and recycled; approximately 20,000 cubic yards of wood mulch were imported, and approximately 12,000 native trees and plants have been planted.

University Heights Open Space Improvements/University Heights South Lot Park. The schematic design for this Opportunity Fund project includes redevelopment of an existing parking lot on UHCC property. Zoning restrictions on parking and site access will require a variance or conditional use permit and will delay the project. Parks and UHCC are considering separating parking and vehicle access from the project. Under this scenario Parks would develop our park site and the SE corner of UHCC as a multi-use asphalt lot with improved paving, drainage and landscaped edge. UHCC would

undertake a separate effort to build vehicle access and get parking approved. UHCC land use committee is now weighing the options, benefits and risks of continuing to participate in the park project.

Kirke Park/9th Avenue NW Redevelopment. Construction started February 1. The contractor, Oceanside Construction, is making great initial progress. Construction should be complete in early June. When completed, the park will have open lawn areas, a play area, 'adventure trail' picnic areas, community gardens, and P-patch gardens.

Opportunity Fund. The Levy Oversight Committee approved the evaluation criteria on January 23. An overall schedule and process are being developed by staff for the second cycle of the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy opportunity fund to engage the communities through Seattle. More than 100 projects were submitted in the first round in 2009-10, of which 15 development and two acquisition projects were ultimately selected.

Shoreline Street Ends. Three shoreline street ends were completed in 2011 as part of the Shoreline Access Levy project. Planning and Development landscape architect R. Frank Robinson did the design and the Conservation Corps constructed all three projects. This is a partnership with SDOT, which will continue to own the land and provide ongoing maintenance with assistance from volunteer street end stewards.

Civic Justice Corps. Will A. Pablo, a gardener in our south central district, volunteers with the CJC, a six-month program that provides service learning, educational support, and job training to young men and women 18-22 who have been involved in the juvenile justice system. Will reports great success in the projects he has done with the group, including jobs clearing decades' worth of blackberries and other invasives at Katie Black's Garden and "resurfacing" the trail steps at Deadhorse Canyon. We hope to continue working with this group who help youth who are in less than ideal circumstances.

Youth Basketball is alive and well!

- Magnuson Community Center has a record seventeen teams this season with a full slate of sixteen games on Friday evenings, all day Saturdays, and Sunday afternoons. A typical number of spectators, ranging from 800 to 1,200 people, pass through the community center doors each weekend along with more than 300 players and coaches.
- Hiawatha Annual Pancake Breakfast was Sunday February 5 and 32 Basketball teams' pictures were taken during the breakfast.

Magnuson Community Center extends successful summer program. Magnuson Community Center's "Rock the Park" has returned. After a very successful summer program, the middle school program for Brettler Family Place teens has returned as a bi-monthly activity starting January 2012. Scheduled are field trips, swimming events,

and special time spent together. Ten youth participated in the first two sessions but numbers are expected to increase as the word spreads that it is back.

Middle School Late Night Program at Magnuson Community Center. Magnuson's Middle School Late Night program has been averaging 20-25 teens on Friday nights from 9-11 p.m. The majority of youth come from Brettler Family Place. Youth are participating in basketball, racquetball, foosball, video games, ping pong, watching movies; eating snacks, etc. It is becoming very apparent that a third staff member is needed during the very busy time between 8-9:15 p.m. when cub basketball games are still being played; classes are still in session and staff are trying to set up for the REC. Youth are arriving early with only the lobby to hang out in.

Volunteer Support. Parks gardeners and truck drivers provided tools and wood chips for the Urban Orchard Stewards' volunteer project. On MLK Day, 40 volunteers removed blackberries and other weeds and mulched apple trees along the Burke-Gilman Trail.

Ballard Bell Plaque. The Ballard Historical Society in partnership with Department of Neighborhoods and Seattle Parks and Recreation presented a proposal to the landmark board the first week in February. Placement of an educational plaque in the Ballard Bell tower (adjacent to Marvin's Garden Park) was approved. The goal is to have the plaque in place for the Mayor's Ballard walk.